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## **RAISED BILL 5124 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IDLING OF MOTOR VEHICLES.**

### **Chairs Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Richard Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:**

My name is Nancy Alderman. I am President of Environment and Human Health, Inc. a non-profit organization comprised of nine members who are physicians and public health professionals dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms.

Environment and Human Health, Inc., is in strong support of Bill 5124. Study after study has connected vehicle exhaust with asthma, poor lung function, and cardiovascular disease. The components of vehicle exhaust are carcinogenic.

The simplest way to reduce human exposures is to limit the unnecessary idling of cars, buses and trucks.

This Bill seeks to copy what already exists in the CT Department of Environmental Protections' (CT DEP) "NO IDLING" regulations of 22a-174-18 and to move these regulations into the motor vehicle statutes so that they can actually be enforced. However this Bill has many more exemptions than are in the DEP regulations -- and a few of these exemptions should be deleted from the Bill.

Explicitly - exemptions (11), (12) and (c) should be deleted.

**(11) When a motor vehicle in livery service is waiting to discharge participants in a wedding or funeral; or**

Livery services can be waiting for an hour or so while a wedding or funeral takes place. There is simply no need for this kind of extensive idling.

**(12) When a motor vehicle is delivering food from a restaurant.**

This is exactly the kind of idling that needs to be stopped. There is no reason for it.

**And**

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any motor vehicle located on private residential property.

Extensive idling that remote idling machines now afford people can actually cause neighbors houses to fill up with carbon monoxide from the vehicle exhaust. The 3-minute rule should apply to private driveways as well for the health of neighbors.

The public is quite unaware of their idling habits. They leave their motors running when they go into the cleaners, the drug stores, Dunkin Doughnuts, grocery stores and so on. The public is also unaware of the harmful effects of both diesel and car exhaust - both of which have serious health effects. Both have components that are carcinogenic, both contribute to ozone levels which effects lung function, diesel exhaust exacerbates asthma, which in this state affects almost 10% of our children.

EPA estimates that about 40% of air toxic emissions in the U.S. come from mobile sources. People need to better understand the health effects of vehicle exhaust so that they can better protect their health and the health of their families.

The issue that the police cannot prioritize their time enforcing a vehicle idling law is no reason to not make the CT DEP "No Idling" regulation the law under the motor vehicle statutes - which this Bill will do. The police do not spend their time enforcing the school bus idling law - yet that law is working. Parents, teachers, and school administrators enforce the law and if bus drivers don't listen, then they can call police --- because it is "The Law".

This is exactly what we need to do for all vehicles. Prohibiting the **unnecessary** idling of cars, buses and trucks is the quickest and cheapest way to reduce vehicle emissions -- and it will be better for the environment, important for global warming, it will conserve fossil fuel and better protect human health - all at the same time.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Alderman".

Nancy Alderman, President  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.  
2010 Legislative Session